Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 145169

E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: OAS, EGEN, CO

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN EXPORT PROMOTION CENTER

REF: 77 STATE 301713

1. THE OAS SECRETARIAT HAS PRODUCED THE "IN-DEPTH STUDY OF EXPORTPROMOTION ACTIVITIES" CALLED FOR LAST DECEMBER (REFTEL).FORPRESENTATIONTOTHE FORTHCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IN PREPARING THE REPORT, IT RECEIVED ADVICE FROM THE EXPORT PROMOTION DIRECTORS OF CHILE, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND GUATEMALA, WHOSE RAUL TEJADA WAS PARTICULARLY HELPFUL. JAMAICA'S EXPORT PROMOTION DIRECTOR WAS UNABLE TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO WASHINGTON TO CONSULT.

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2. THE NEW STUDY, IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR'S BOTERO-HELLER REPORT ON THE INTER-AMERICAN EXPORT PROMOTION CENTER (CIPE), CONCLUDES THAT THERE DOES EXIST A NEED FOR EXPORT PROMOTION ASSISTANCE IN LATIN AMERICA. IT DESCRIBES THE TYPES OF ASSISTANCE THAT MIGHT BE OFFERED, AND SUGGESTS THE OPTIONS OF REVITALIZING CIPE, CREATING A NEW

EXPORT PROMOTION INSTITUTE TO REPLACE CIPE, OR INCLUDING AN OAS EXPORT PROMOTION PROGRAM WITHIN THE REGULAR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SECTION OF THE SECRETARIAT, THAT IS,

WITHOUT HANDLING IT THROUGH A SEPARATE FUND TO WHICH GOVERNMENTS MAKE SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS. OF COURSE A FOURTH OPTION IS TO DISCONTINUE OAS EXPORT PROMOTION ACTIVITY.

- 3. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FORMALLY TERMINATE CIPE. THE CIPE STAFF AND OPERATIONS IN BOGOTA ARE CURRENTLY SKELETAL, THE ECUADOREAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS LEFT THE SCENE AND A SWEDE ON LOAN FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATION IS IN CHARGE. ONE COUNTRY-ARGENTINA-HAS STATED THAT IT WILL MAKE NO MORE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIPE, AND SEVERAL OTHERS SEEM TO HAVE MADE THE SAME DECISION QUIETLY. COLOMBIA'S DEPUTY AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS CAMACHO REPORTS THAT THE GOC IS RESIGNED TO THE DEMISE OF CIPE. IN SHORT, THERE IS NO KNOWN SUPPORT FOR CONTINUING CIPE; WHAT WE HOPE TO AVOID IS THE USUAL OAS TENDENCY TO REFER THE SUBJECT FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO A SUBORDINATE BODY FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION, THUS PROLONGING CIPE'S AGONY--AND EXPENDITURES--TO NO PURPOSE.
- 4. IF OTHER MEMBERS OPT TO CONTINUE OAS EXPORT PROMOTION ACTIVITY, WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE IDEA AND TO CONSIDER DIVERTING UNUSED U.S. FUNDS PLEDGED FOR CIPE TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEW PROGRAM. NO ONE, SO FAR AS WE KNOW, WANTS TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT INSTITUTE TO REPLACE CIPE. IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDES THAT THE OAS SHOULD CONTINUE EXPORT PROMOTION ASSISTANCE, WE EXPECT IT TO REFER DECISIONS ON PROGRAM DETAILS TO THE IA-ECOSOC.

5. EMBASSY CONFIRMATION THAT THE COG IS PREPARED TO SEE CIPE TERMINATED WOULD BE WELCOME. VANCE

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